



# THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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## MBA Board Member takes TSSAA and its recruiting rule to Supreme Court

by Steven Syverud (Editor-in-Chief)

Think back to sixth grade. You need a haircut, so you're sitting in Belle Meade Barbershop. While Ralph is sweeping his razor across your head, he finds out from you that you're trying to decide where to go to school next year, so he takes the initiative to tell you about MBA. Good tradition, great campus, etc.

Innocent conversation? Nope. It violates the recruiting rule of the TSSAA. The same rule that Brentwood Academy violated. Their punishment was

a \$3,000 fine and a ban from basketball and football playoffs.

The TSSAA (Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association) rule states that a school shall not use "undue influence" exceeding what is natural and appropriate to attract a student. But the organization is unclear about what exactly undue influence is.

It was this vagueness and other confusion surrounding the

TSSAA that led Lee Barfield, an MBA Board of Trust member and partner at Bass, Berry, and Sims, to take BA's case. Barfield said that violations of the rule

appealed that decision to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Cincinnati, which ruled that it was a private entity and not a state actor. Barfield and BA then appealed

### If BA wanted to create a killer orchestra, they could recruit all the cellists they wanted relatively free of regulation.

are in essence "whatever the executive director [of the TSSAA] says is illegal. The rule violates the First Amendment because it creates what we call a Berlin Wall—a barrier between students and fans and the schools."

Under the rule, schools cannot initiate contact with a student before he or she visits the school. The school is even held responsible for recruiting by individuals they are unaware of and who have no affiliation with the school. Thus, Ralph at Belle Meade Barbershop could get MBA nailed for recruiting because he "targeted communication" with a student. The TSSAA has addressed the matter primarily through question and answer examples, which the BA side claims constitute only per se rules that give unlimited power of discretion to the Director of the TSSAA. This side claims that the rule's strict regulation of communication tramples the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The TSSAA rule, however, does not extend to non-athletes. So if Brentwood Academy wanted to develop a killer orchestra, it could recruit all the cellists it wanted, relatively free of regulation. But in the case they were penalized for, it was not cellists they were found guilty of recruiting. BA contacted three football players and one basketball player from East Nashville attending Whites Creek. "The public school coaches were mad," Barfield said. "Whites Creek reported Brentwood Academy for violating the recruiting rule."

After being fined, BA appealed the TSSAA decision but was turned down. Then with Barfield as their lawyer, they took the case before the District Court where Judge Todd Campbell decided that the recruiting rule was Unconstitutional and that the TSSAA was a state actor, and therefore must comply with parts of the Constitution such as the First Amendment. The TSSAA then

to the Supreme Court and won a hearing. They enlisted Vanderbilt Law Professor Jim Blumstein, who had been serving as their legal consul, to argue their case.

For the Supreme Court arguments, the BA side made a tactical decision to deal only with the issue of whether or not the TSSAA was a state actor, because they didn't think the Supreme Court would rule on the case if a plea was made on behalf of free speech, which had been rejected by the Circuit Court. This move meant that the ruling in the case would set a precedent for high school sports in virtually every state.

The TSSAA argued that it was a private entity because they are a non-profit organization with no public money with members that are not public employees. Blumstein, however, held that their distinction was not so simple. "You have members represented by public officials," Blumstein said. "The same public officials make the rules in the TSSAA, and in their capacities as principles implement the decisions they have made. Where's the priority in the organization?" In support of the argument that the TSSAA is a state actor, he added that every school that has athletics is a member of the TSSAA. And if a nonmember wants to play a member, it must receive game by game approval by the Executive

## Drunk Driving Accident A Somber Warning

by Patrick Lewis (Senior Editor)

Just a few years ago, a high-school student left a party with a young female friend of his. He had been drinking heavily. Without giving much thought, he stepped into his car, even though his blood alcohol content was well over the legal limit. Shortly after leaving the party, the student crashed his car into a guardrail, totaling the vehicle. The female friend that he was with was unconscious and had slipped into a coma. She stayed in the comatose state for nearly a month.

The girl recovered from her massive injuries and still continues to recover today. She is presently attending college and is doing well, even though she had slight brain damage because of the wreck.

I remember hearing about the wreck and writing it off just after I realized that the girl had lived. This past summer, however, the accident was in the news again. Her family was suing both the driver and the host of the party who had given alcohol to the people at the party. I did not attend the trial, but I read in *The Tennessean* that the driver had been ordered to pay more than 2.5 million dollars, and the host had been ordered to pay nearly half-a-million dollars.

Many people are not shocked that the driver is at fault in situations like this, but they are shocked that the host of a party could be ordered to pay such a large sum. Any adult who hosts an alcohol related party is held liable by state law for any accident. The girl was not totally innocent, however. She too had been drinking. She had willingly gotten in the car with the driver, even though she knew

he was not safe behind the wheel. By making no protest to riding with a drunk driver, it seems that she should also be held liable.

It is important to know who should be held responsible in these situations. In my opinion, all three people are in the wrong. Some adults believe that it is all right for under-age people to drink if they do not plan on driving. Some adults allow under-age people to drive after they have been drinking. These adults should be held liable. It is also important to note that although it is horrible to put blame on any victim who rides in the car, it is necessary. The victim willingly rides in the car knowing that he or she could be harmed in an accident. But the driver is at fault the most in a drunk driving situation. Not only is he or she putting all the passengers in the car in harm's way, but he or she is also putting many innocent people on the road at risk. Nearly every day innocent people are killed in drunk driving accidents.

Drinking and driving is a major problem in the United States and throughout the world. We all know that drunk driving happens in Nashville and in the MBA community. It is important to think about the consequences every time you get into a car. As a rule, don't put yourself in situations where you will be tempted to ride with a drunk driver. Getting grounded is better than being arrested or being involved in a serious accident.

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## 2 Columns and Briefs

### A Few Tips on Women from El Presidente

by William Sisk (staff)

Because I've been around for a few years, I've been fortunate enough to learn a few secrets about the feminine gender. In order to achieve maximum success with the females, one must be aware that there are many different ways to be successful with the ladies.

One way to have success is the good old fashion Will Howorth approach. In this approach, you have to be brutally honest with your lady. And when I say brutally honest, I mean honest. There is no beating around the bush, trust Howorth. You have to go in and tell your lady how you want things. Also, an insane amount of flirting comes into the Howorthian process. What I mean by this previous statement is that every person, who is not a male, is a target. Age has no limit, height has no boundaries, size doesn't matter, and color is the least of your worries. The Howorthian approach is a style that many men try to emulate, but only few have found success in.

The next style is the Big Ross method. This method also has two distinct facets. The first part of the Howorth method is lots of physical flirting. You have to go to your woman, or woman, and physically flirt. You know, go get the CF's. Whether you are actually dating them or not, you must,

and I stress the must, physically flirt. The women will go wild. Just ask Big Ross.

The second aspect of the McWhirter method is the old romantic approach. After you have accomplished step one, and your lady begins to feel comfortable around you, you can then go in for the kill. In the romantic phase, you must write lots and lots of love poetry. Use many Greek goddess references (Athena) in your poems and talk about how your heart yearns for the passion of the inner soul that it can not have, and then you will definitely be in with your lady.

Boys imitate the McWhirter method every day, but that is why they are called Boys. Watching the movie *Great Expectations* will mark the occasion when you make the all important transition into manhood.

Another style of success is the Desbo technique. In this technique, all you have to do is take off your shirt. Believe it or not, but I've seen it work. Many of us would not like to see the Bear reveal anything underneath his clothes, but girls, they are different. When Desbo shows some skin, because, because waves and waves of ladies will be coming. Some guys have lost their girlfriends because of the Desbo

technique. This technique is not right for everyone, but some guys just can't help what they have.

One more approach is the Cook Wyllie approach. In this approach, you have to know that every girl wants your body that has been carved out of marble. The Wyllie approach reveals confidence, pride, and triumph. This approach proves my theory. Girls Love Cook.

Charlie Nelson uses another approach. Or, rather, girls use another approach on him. That's it, and it's done.

The last method operandi is the Shearon scheme. In this scheme, you must be very, very persistent. Deke exemplifies how persistence is the best way to succeed, not just with ladies, but also in life. By persisting and persisting, Deke has taught us all how eventually every woman will crack.

Dating back to eighth grade hummering and Operation Furtis, Deke has persisted on attaining his dream lady. Some girls play hard to get, and it is through the Shearon scheme that I've learned that if a girl plays hard to get, she actually really likes you, or at least she eventually will. Also, the Shearon scheme reveals how girls love actors. It's as simple as that. Not many men

can even use the Shearon scheme because persistence takes a lot of willpower, and most guys do not have that.

The things I've told you today are just a few of the methods and ways to succeed with the female gender. There are other techniques, but these six methods are success tactics that stand out. Here are a few other facts about ladies that I've learned. Girls are always right, and giving back massages to your lady equals happiness. If you want what every guy wants, just trust me, your lady is always right.

If you are not dating her, you can joke around and flirt with her by using the eighth grade maneuver of being mean and making fun of your female of choice. This maneuver usually catches the girl's attention, and then sparks may start. However, once the sparks have started, stop being mean, agree with everything she says, and give her plenty of back massages, and then the rubies will start flowing in.

So, that's all for this episode of El Presidente: Keys to Success, but look for more interesting tips in the next issue. So for now, practice using your hands to give massages and learn how to listen and agree with your lady, and then layback, relax, and let the good times flow.

## Montgomery Bell News Briefs

### Unprecedented Number of National Merit Scholars

Over 40 percent of the Senior Class was recently recognized by the College Board for outstanding performance on the PSAT. National Merit Semifinalists included Kyle Abrahams, James Britton, Clay Brown, Jamie Carroll, Heath Edwards, Giles Evans, Andy Gray, Tipton Horn, Tate Jackson, Kevin Knish, Ryan Miran, Cooper Moore, Nick Reid, Jamie Sperring, Steven Syverud, Chris Vaisinas, and Adam Zelizer. National Merit Commended Students included Charles Anderson, Brandon Booth, Allen Carlson, Brian Chumock, David

Close, Walker Duncan, Jonathan Estes, Will Fugner, Joel Gobbett, Evan Hagemeier, Will Howorth, Hugh Martin, Tommy McGinn, Jameson Norton, Drew Oldham, Michael Pasa, Gavin Richey, Walt Shampton, Deke Shearon, Evan Shelby, Gray Skinner, Aaron Vialdo, Zach Wall, Carter Wamp, David Was, Andrew Wilson, and Cook Wyllie.

### New Totomoi Inductees

Congratulations to the six seniors inducted into Totomoi, MBA's honorary fraternity recognizing excellence in academics, athletics, service to MBA, and service to the community. This fall's inductees were Will Howorth, Tate Jackson, Drake Jarman, Jameson Norton, Steven Syverud and David Was.

### Nick Reid '02 Wins Morehead Scholarship at UNC

Congratulations to Nick Reid '02, who won one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships, the Morehead Award. Morehead scholars receive full tuition, room, and board for four years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Morehead scholars also receive large grants to participate in a variety of summer experiences throughout their time at UNC. Nick competed against top students from around the country to become one of only 70 winners.

### Other News

Congratulations to Mayor's Youth Council Members, Will Howorth '02, and Hunter Mobley '03.

Michie Bohan '04 is the Pulse Volunteer of the Month and new Pulse Project Coordinator; Christopher Schuller '04 is the new trained Peer Educator at Ours Center.

Michael Koban '04 will be MBA's representative at the High O'Drien Leadership Seminar.

Isaac Horjan-Marlenas was chosen as a member of the PG-15 Teen Peer Education Theater Troupe.

And Welcome to Quinton Gees and Gerard Noel, who arrived in Nashville on October 5th for their two month exchange. They are students at Middlebury in South Africa and are staying with the families of Eric Hill '04 and John '04 and Daniel '05 Patten.

## As First Quarter Comes to an End, Senior Leadership at an All Time Low-High

by Osama Ghandi

This year's seniors are the most worthless lot of lazy sacks of crap dedicated hardworking fellows ever seen at MBA. I would like to take them out back and beat some sense into them to dinner to congratulate them on their efforts. In respect to their leadership abilities, I've seen blind midgets herd mice through hoops of fire better than they can lead a few measly underclassmen great things from this group of true leaders.

Even their teachers have screamed in protest at their horrendous lack of decency and common sense remarked upon their upstanding moral example and sense of responsibility within the community. The student council continues to do absolutely nothing and mock the very spirit of democracy express the student body with an exemplary voice.

Underclassmen's sentiments run along similar lines. One student cried out in pain, "Please, let me go, the bloody ropes of senior oppression are chaffing my desperate hands!" said, "Gee golly gosh, the seniors sure are swell!"

Alumni often comment to Mr. Gioia when they come onto campus that things sure have gone to heck are better now than they've ever been. Mr. Tillman often dons riot gear and fires tear gas canisters to disperse the raucous mobs protesting the loss of a senior room sits in the quadrangle and enjoys growing closer with the senior class.

Several members of the surrounding community have filed suit against reckless senior drivers who blare their music and run over small children commended the senior class for its exceptional roadway behavior. Even God himself called yesterday to condemn the immortal souls of this group of lackluster bums to eternal purgation canonize the entire 2002 senior class.



Despite some speculation by psychiatric experts that attending an all male high school, like MBA, can lead to severe sexual repression and homoerotic bonding, almost no evidence to date upholds such an absurd hypothesis.

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## The Tragedies of September 11

### A New Generation of American Heroes

by Charles Anderson

By now, all of us have been assaulted by the horrifying images of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. We have been blasted with news coverage and death tolls. On September 11, 2001, all of our lives changed. In a space of about 20 minutes, our country and the world in which we live were forever altered by tyrannical madmen. It is amazing how one moment and one small space in time can affect us all. It was amazing to see how all of us came together in the moment of crisis.

I remember being amazed and touched by the concern on all of the students' faces as they hovered around the TV in the Roberts Room. It was standing room only during my 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch as everyone -seniors and seventh graders alike- came to witness the horror.

Now the country waits in an uncertain period. A long and dangerous war looms on the horizon. After witnessing my fellow MBA students' responses after the attacks, however, I have great confidence in us all to overcome any challenge.

We have been heralded as the luckiest, yet most ungrateful generation ever. We complain when a pizza does not arrive at our doorstep in 30 minutes or less, or when it takes more than 10 seconds for a web page to download. We won't be able to tell our kids those "When I walked ten miles barefoot in the snow to school..." stories.

After seeing the response from the MBA community, particularly the students, however, I have full confidence in our generation. Now is the time for inspired leadership, and it must come from everyone down the line - from politicians to students here at MBA. Soon, it will be up to our generation to deal with a huge national crises.

After seeing the compassion, responsibility, and concern among all of the students during the weeks after the terrorist attacks, I have full confidence that we are fully capable of providing the leadership that will be necessary of our generation. Only time will tell, but I look forward to seeing an MBA graduate sitting in the oval office talking on the phone and making the

difficult speeches. Times are scary now, but they could get even more frightening. I think that our generation will be ready to lead when the time comes. It made me proud to be among you and be an MBA student as I watched the leaders of tomorrow witness the carnage of today.

### Wake Up, America

by Ted Tywang (Staff)

*Driver slams into mosque in Ohio.*

*Sikh owner of gas station fatally shot in rampage.*

*Car-torchings shake Antioch family.*

What is wrong with us?? The terrorist attacks of September 11, display the worst of humanity, as do these headlines taken from various newspapers nationwide. Since the attacks, a disgusting new trend has begun around the country: harassment and mistreatment of Arab Americans.

The World Trade Center tragedy has filled most Americans with emotions such as shock, sadness, and anger. All of these emotions are understandable, and to be expected following a tragedy of such magnitude. However, some Americans have been using unacceptable methods to deal with this anger. At least two Arab Americans have died as a result of the deeds of uneducated "patriotic" Americans. Countless mosques and homes of Islamic people have been firebombed, and immeasurable verbal harassment has been dished out. In Nashville alone there have been over a dozen hate crimes against people of the Muslim faith. Arab Americans have been affected by these attacks in the same ways that Latino, African, and Caucasian Americans have, and then some. These despicable attacks are unacceptable, and its time for them to stop. And I'm not the only one who thinks so.

On Tuesday, September 16, Mr. Mike Buhl spoke in a special MBA activity period regarding several aspects of the national emergency situation. Mr. Buhl, an experienced current events and government teacher, used to work in the intelligence community. He spoke of several issues, but saved the most important message for last. Mr. Buhl said, "Some people want to wipe out all the Muslims in this country. You cannot wipe out all the Muslims, because if you do, the

Christians, the Jews, the Buddhists, the Sikhs, and whatever else we have will be next. Harassing and harming Arab-Americans-that is the most un-American thing we can do." Even President Bush is getting into the act. He recently visited a mosque in Washington to promote peace. He condemned the hateful acts, saying, "Americans who target Muslims and Arab Americans ought to be ashamed of their behavior."

Americans must stand tall against the terrorists who look to disrupt our every-day life. If this prejudice against Arab-Americans and the disgusting deeds it breeds continue, we are letting the terrorists win. We cannot turn against our countrymen; a much greater enemy is at hand. Americans must unite. Christian Americans, Jewish Americans, rich Americans, poor Americans, White Americans, Black Americans and Arab Americans. We must all stand together.

### Nostradamus and Other Conspiracy Theories

by Will Choppin (Entertainment Editor)

The September 11th World Trade Center destruction has caused a lot of frenzy. From this devastation come three different types of reactions from people. First, there are the activists who strive to salvage as many lives as possible by donating blood, money, and time. Second, there are the more passive ones whose hearts are out to the victims and whose minds are beset from the tragedy. Third, there are the village idiots who blame it all on the one and only Nostradamus. This article is for the third group, the morons.

So far, Nostradamus has been credited to predicting such events as the two World Wars and the JFK shooting. Now the soothsayer is believed to have foretold the World Trade Center incident. The following quatrain is why: "In the City of God there will be a great thunder, Two brothers torn apart by Chaos, while the fortress endures, the great leader will succumb. The third big war will begin when the big city is burning" (Nostradamus 1654).

Alright, so it sounds like something the guy would say, and to the ignorant reader it makes sense, but

look at the date: 1654. Nostradamus died in 1566. Someone is playing a prank on us. But just be glad to know that this prophecy is a complete hoax. If you believe that I have made up this date, I have more. All of his prophecies are found in his book, *The Centuries*. This passage, sure enough, is found nowhere in the book.

Even if Nostradamus wrote this passage, would it really matter? Let's look at more of the soothsayer's book. Personally, I am interested to know more about the JFK prophesy. Here is the passage that is supposed to be credited to the Kennedy assassinations, JFK and RFK: "The ancient work will be accomplished, And from the roof evil ruin will fall on the great man. They will accuse an innocent, being dead, of the deed: The guilty one is hidden in the misty cove" (Century 6, Quatrain 37). "The great man will be struck down in the day by a thunderbolt. The evil deed predicted by the bearer of a petition: According to the prediction another falls at night, Conflict in Reims, London, and pestilence in Tuscany" (Century 1, Quatrain 27).

Wow! It was right on the money! I can't even begin to explicate; someone else explain to me how these two quatrains could have possibly been applied to the Kennedy murders. My point is that Nostradamus wrote in such a vague way that any moron could attribute any event to any of Nostradamus' predictions. It just depends on the moron.

Back to the World Trade Center issue, what really makes me mad is the exaggeration being done to the one simple (fake!) prophetic quatrain. After all the fabrications, here is the finished product:

"On the 11 day of the 9 month that...two metal birds would crash into two tall statues...in the new city...and the world will end soon after" "From the book of Nostradamus"

Well, now it depicts what happens perfectly! This pitiful attempt at a rumor has reached the epitome of stupidity. And kids at MBA are spreading it like it's the daily announcements! It's sad, really. So allow me to be the first: Nostradamus was just another joker trying to make a living, and anyone who is spreading these awful rumors is doing no good to society except scaring it.



## One Student Praises Changes at MBA

by Daniel Gluck

From the moment I stepped into Dr. Crowell's classroom on the first day of school and received a fifty minute lecture on the "do's and don't of teenage girls," I knew that I was in for a good year. For the most part, this theory has held true outside of Dr. Crowell's class and in some of the debatable areas of school from last year. For one, I have to give a big stamp for improvement to the lunch service.

Finally Sage is on the way to living up to its motto of "eat all you can eat." For once, students can get as much food in the hot lunch as they want, instead of having to make numerous trips back and forth in order to get one buffalo wing each time. The food also appears to be much tastier and have much more of a variety instead of the constantly reoccurring Hungarian goulash from last year. The deli bar has

made vast improvements, too. The meat is much more edible this year as opposed to last year where it looked like the turkey could have been sitting in the refrigerator from the days of Sodexo.

Also, Yolanda seems to be more relaxed and enjoyable to one's lunch experience instead of her threats of demerits and unceasing shout of "Back it up". Just a few tips for making lunch even better. For one, let students come through the opening from Frist Hall to where the food is served instead of making us walk all the way around through the hall.

I know it might not sound like much walking, but teenagers are the laziest of all human beings. The second need for improvement is the ice and Coke machine. The machine is always out of ice and Coke, especially sixth

period. Please just keep it refilled during all lunch periods. The aspect that I personally have been most impressed with is assembly. We have yet to run over in an assembly (to my recollection anyway). Thus, students get out of school at the scheduled time instead of 3:30 or 3:45.

Mr. Gioia has done a good job with "facilitating and orchestrating" the announcements and activities during assembly so that we get out on time. Also, assemblies have been on the lighter and more humorous side, with speeches by William Sisk and the ageless Joe Thompson, instead of boring speakers who put me to sleep faster than a lecture on the economy of seventeenth century Flanders. Keep up the good work in this year's assemblies.

The third positive side of this

new school year is the "break period." What more could a student ask for than to take thirty minutes of his morning away from the classroom in order to just simply enjoy life. For the overachiever, there are numerous activities around campus, ranging from astronomy to Special Olympics to nuclear physics. For the socializers, there is a half hour to fraternize with friends about the upcoming weekend plans. And for the guy who got only four hours of sleep the night before, there is the always-appealing naptime.

I congratulate you Mr. Tillman and Mr. Gioia for this new period during the day. It seems to fit everyone's needs. And if it is for no other purpose, the junior class will have half as many demerits this year as members of the class will not spend time at detention for missing activity period.

## Bad Feelings About New Demerit Hall

### Chris Smith a Bit Upset

The new school year is here, and students everywhere are welcoming their surroundings and position with mixed feelings. Whether a Senior or 7th grader, each student is excited but at the same time uneasy. The excitement of starting a new year, maybe coming that much closer to graduating, or just the simple truth that each day of school is one day closer to the end of the year brings satisfaction to some, while others rejoice in their studies.

The uneasiness is understandable as well. We face a year of exams, dress code, early mornings, 8th period study halls and, of course, demerits. All of these things are understandable elements of any high school, except the demerits. I have a personal contempt for the demerit system, but this year the administration has added fuel to the fire.

This year in demerit hall working on homework is not allowed; instead students must either do write-offs or clean the campus. The logic behind this change is to make demerit hall as uninviting and horrible as possible so that students will behave themselves and not get demerits. There are, of course, a few problems with this theory. The more restrictions in a

society or institution, the less moral and virtuous the people are.

The perverseness of man is so basic it is a wonder it could go overlooked by those who made this new demerit rule. The logic exhibited by our administration here is more or less the same logic behind all rules; if there are consequences to breaking the laws people will not break them.

But we all know that people break the laws. If, however, a society or institution is tolerant, the people tend to be honest and satisfied. More rules and laws are not the answer. What he have here is not progress. M.B.A does not need the demerit system to function; if it does then the quality of our school should certainly be questioned.

How can we advance as a school if we insist on clinging to worthless antiquities, even making new laws to preserve them? As long as the demerit system exists here at M.B.A, as long as we keep taking measures to preserve it, as a school we will be like a confused dog chasing its tail for days.

### Will Choppin Isn't Happy

To all the teachers who decided to change the demerit hall system for the students...To all the students who complained to the teachers about the demerit hall system...To each and every individual involved in the restructuring of the demerit hall...What were you thinking?

Demerit hall used to be just as provocative as it was punitive. It was a decent and effective system. It certainly made the students feel penitent for their previous actions from the past week. The major benefit: students were able to finish some schoolwork during the time of their punishment, usually about one or two hours. What are the changes?

Well, if you were not listening to the three and a half hour long speeches at registration, the perpetrating students will either be sentenced to campus cleanup or "write-offs," which are defined in the 2001-2002 handbook as "repetitious copying of materials." Oh yes, you would not have known what write-offs were had it not been for the Holy Handbook. So why the change?

What is the reason behind transforming demerit hall into a sweatshop forcing all the employees to write their ABCs 5,000 times? Will it be effective? The 8-ball says, "All signs point to no, man you play too much, just what were you thinking anyway?" Will making the demerit hall a completely

boring and waste of time repel students from getting demerits and make MBA a utopian society? Another big fatty boombatty NO this time around. Not to sound negative, but students are always getting into some kind of trouble, they are always getting caught, and so demerit hall will always be very populated. The day when two teacher-proctors arrive at MBA at 8am Saturday morning to conduct a demerit hall of zero students is not going to come.

What should be done? The option to do schoolwork should always be open for demerit hall. Instead of replacing the schoolwork option with the campus cleanup/write-offs mandate, simply allow the latter to be another option for the student to choose to do other than schoolwork. If so, a student could get some schoolwork done; a student could spend his time cleaning up the campus if he had no school work to do; if it is raining, and if a student has no schoolwork, then send in the write-offs, which of course are repetitious copying of assignments (or so the handbook tells us, no one can really be sure what write-offs really are). With three options before the students at demerit hall, they are sure to have something to do, which would also prevent the proctor to give demerits to students for being idle. What a great idea! How come no one else could think of it?

## TSSAA (continued from page 1)

Director

In the end, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Blumstein, Barfield, and BA. Blumstein said that the decision reinforced others in the past. "If we had lost, the outcome would have been cataclysmic. All other institutions that had been subject to the Constitution would be [suddenly free of regulation]."

After the Supreme Court decision, the case was remanded to the Sixth Circuit, which decided that the rule was Unconstitutional. A July 22 date has been set for Judge Campbell to hear the case again under a full trial.

Blumstein feels that his side chances in Campbell's court will be good. Until Campbell hears the case, however, the current rule still stands. Blumstein said he will be happy to see the rule go. A three-sport letterman in high school, Blumstein doesn't like the standard the rule sets for athletes. "Ultimately, if you have a talent in

sports, you are not able to receive information about your education. You can be a good high school athlete and still have a brain."

Support from MBA has been conspicuously absent throughout Blumstein and Barfield's court battles. The pair made a presentation to the MBA Board of Trustees on the importance of the rule to MBA athletics and high school athletics throughout the nation. Clearly, the precedent set in this case has a large bearing on sports at MBA. Blumstein, himself a Board Member, never even received a call back after the meeting with the Board.

It's too bad that people at MBA missed its opportunity to influence this case. If MBA does not want to help BA win its case, it should start thinking about how to silence potential advocates of MBA athletics in the community. Maybe they should start by calling Ralph the barber.

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to thebellringer2000@hotmail.com. These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. EverReady Printing in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.



## Big Red Football Searching for a Four-Peat

by Jack Turner (Photography Editor)

A new era in MBA football has begun, and there is a promising future for the Big Red football team. The team has a new face and a new schedule and is seeking their fourth straight State Championship. After losing several key players many said that Coach Ricky Bowers would not be able to compete, but thus far the team has proved that statement false.

The absence of four division one players has changed the whole scheme of the team this year. Unlike last year's team, that had a lot of finesse with players like, umm... well I forgot that guy's name, this year's team is hard nosed and ready to pick a fight. The offense is lead by Captain Andrew Wilson and his sidekick Robin (known to many of you as Bill Frazier) on the offensive line. Fellow seniors Will "Deebo" Denbo and Adam Floyd anchor the line at guard, and big-man Tyler Ammarell drives the defense back at tackle. Senior Drake Jarman and sophomore Michael Fisher have lead the team at the quarterback position. The backfield has been running like a gorilla chasing a Chiquita banana truck. Senior Brett Begley, at both fullback and tailback, has been

able to motivate the underclassmen. Blake Goodman, Michael Koban, and Anderson Greene play tailback, while senior Jack Turner and sophomore Clay

Cook Wyllly. Chase Cowden, who plays for the Big Red's farm team coached by Coach Lanier, has been brought up to kick.

bull, finesse, and rush, the defensive line gives the opposing offense little chance to gain a yard. If by some act of God, something got past the d-line, they

would be stopped dead in their tracks when they ran into "The Wall". If the offense tries to run away by going outside, they will only find the two fastest players on the team, Cook Wyllly and Brett Begley, waiting to chase them down. Since it is almost physically impossible past the front seven, we put two sophomores behind them. To be fair, the sophomore backfield has proved itself worthy with the perfect plays of Petus, the agility of Mathew Jacques, and the hard hits of juniors Daniel Gluck and Bennet Graham. Tate Jackson and Brent Sayles shut down the passing game at the cornerback positions.

Although the Big Red lost their first game of the season, they bounced back with big wins over BGA, Knox-Catholic, Baylor, and Knox-Webb. After two random and unfortunate losses to Christian Brothers and MUS, the Big Red came up big with a Homecoming win against long-time rival Brentwood Academy. Now that the playoffs are here, the team needs your support.



Coach Bowers tries to rally the troops in Memphis when the Big Red faced MUS. Although MBA would go on to lose the game, they were able to bounce back the very next week at Homecoming against long-time rival Brentwood Academy.

Haury help the Begman at fullback. The receiving core is lead by seniors Tate Jackson and Gray "Isostar" Skinner, along with tight ends Zach Wall and

While the offense has done a great job thus far, it is the Big Red's defense that drives the team to victory. Powered by a combination of speed,

## In the Wake of Terrorist Attacks and a New War, Do Sports Have Any Meaning?

by John Eason (Sports Editor)

On September 11, 2001, the intercontinental United States was attacked by suicidal terrorists, knocking down the World Trade Center Towers. This hideous act will affect our people for many years to come, in a way, probably for the better. Thousands of innocent people died along with firefighters and policemen who were doing their duties. During all this turmoil, sports were without a doubt an afterthought. Sporting leagues in general made the right decision in

canceling their respective games and events for that week. The NFL commissioner on Thursday of that week announced that the NFL would postpone its games for Week 2. Major League Baseball immediately canceled all of its games for that week as soon as the incident occurred. NASCAR, the PGA, and most of college football all followed this precedent on that tragic week because the races, tournaments, and games can be played some other time of the year. How can you ask Tiki

Barber of the New York Giants, who almost lost a relative in the World Trade Center, to step out on the field at the Meadowlands and have a passion for a game that is in reality so meaningless? Does anybody care if the Titans win over the Bengals in Week 2. No. I hope America wins over terrorism. That "game" is what matters now. I pick America by two touchdowns. So whether it's the cancellations of the Ryder Cup, Vols- Gators game, or NFL week 2, Americans have gained a perspective and reality on life. I know I

will never be able to watch a sporting event the same way again, but don't get me wrong. Sports can bring together a nation and bring a feeling of patriotism. Just ask all those millions of fans watching Super Bowl XXV when Whitney Houston brought chills to the spine with her National Anthem during the Gulf War. President Bush is offensive coordinator, America is his team, and the terrorists are on the defensive. I know what game my TV will be turned to. Go America.



## MBA Cross Country Team Steps it Up

by William Sisk

I knew stuff would change on January 1st, 2001, but I had no idea that this time warp would change my entire life. My comrades and I went out and bought spam, canned beans, peanut butter, bottle water, and Ramen noodles, but oh no, none of these everlasting foods could save us from the wrath that was about to occur. The wrath that came on July 31st, at Percy Warner Park-cross-country began. For starters, there are a few reasons why this year's cross-country team is quite different than in years past.

First off, we do not have our veteran captain, Deke Shearon. With the loss of Deke, the team has had trouble coping with the long, strenuous runs, the on going hills, and the horrid workouts. "Deke was like a God to the sport of cross-country, and now that he's gone, I just don't know if I'll be able to continue to run," said David Flemming.

Because of Deke's absence, and the words from Flemming, a few other fallen warriors have had to leave the team. Andrew Quinn, James Clark, and Flemming all had to make an early

exit from this new year. Nonetheless, Coach Pruitt, living by the phrase, "I'll never leave a fallen man behind", tried and tried to hold on to those CC gurus. His persistence came up shy however, as these warriors had to depart early, even though CP gave it his best shot to hold onto the heart and sole of the team.

Another devastating change for the family was the loss of Brandon Booth. "I really looked up to Brandon, but now that he's gone, I have to look up to Morgan, and it's just not the same," Clayton Trammell said. We'll miss you Brandon.

Walker Duncan, a 265 pound, senior, cross-country runner, could not make the cut either. His lack of presence has also really affected the spirit of the team.

One more interesting fracture that has torn the team apart was losing All-American, Nathan Mulherin. Mulherin, who won the silver medal in the Junior Olympics this past summer, now has a stress fracture in his foot, possibly from running too far. Hopefully his presence will be felt before the end of the season, but this dream is doubtful, considering he's been in critical

condition and is presently being fed out of a small tube in Vanderbilt's Children Hospital.

And last, but not least, there has been one more stunning change. "I believe he's an angel," said one freshman, Will Smith. "He must be the cross-country savior," shouted Little Tilley. But oh no, they were both wrong. It was just William Sisk. Sisk has taken over as the team's manager this year. In an interview, he explained, "Coach Bowers has tried to get me to be the manager for the football team for years. Teachers, friends, and coaches used to mock me and ask, 'You gonna be a manager like your older brother?' Hahaha, I used to laugh at them, and think about how stupid they were for asking me those questions. Now I realize why they asked."

Yes, it is true, William has taken seven steps down below the football and wrestling managers, and he now stands as the one and only cross-country Manager. He likes to think of himself as a student-coach though. "This change has actually added to the team's success," said Coach Russ. William agrees also. He says that he

actually enjoys helping the team succeed.

Porter Meadors is another fellow who has stepped up this year in many ways. He now has the title of a "spiritual leader", edging out Allen Callison who came a close second. Porter has started a new tradition of praying before meets. With this new ritual, and Porter's spiritual guidance, the team is destined to succeed. Porter is doing everything and anything he can to help the team win the state meet.

Even with all of these changes and losses, the cross-country team still stands high on both legs and believes that they have a good shot at going all the way. Leading the Big Red is Senior Morgan Miller who wants to beat David Dean's three-mile record of 15:11. Because of Morgan's relentless attitude, and his desire to lead the team to victory, he knows that this is going to be a successful season, even if David Scoville is running Varsity. So all we can do as fans, teachers, coaches, and friends is wish the Big Red some luck and wait to see what tricks they have up their sleeves this year. Roll Red Roll!

## Tennessee Titans Start the Season Slow

by Jack Bryant (Staff)

Nashville was excited. Titans mania was running through the city as fans eagerly awaited the September 8th season opener. In the opening game against the Miami Dolphins, however, the Titans did not perform close to their usual level of play, and some fans have been left doubting them.

In Week One the Tennessee Titans did little to impress anyone. The starting quarterback, Steve McNair, was from the first drive poor at best. He over threw an open Frank Whycheck on several occasions, and Kevin Dyson and Derrick Mason were also thrown terrible passes.

The weak passing game cannot be blamed on Steve McNair entirely. For one, normally solid backup quarterback, Neil O'Donnell, through two interceptions, one late in the third quarter and the other midway through the fourth. Moreover, the rest of the Titan offense was not able to take the burden off the passing game. Eddie George was never able to establish himself for any positive yards on the opening drives, giving the passing game more pressure than they normally

would have. Although Eddie is known for being a slow starter, the opening weekend was especially poor. With the Tennessee offense performing so badly, one might ask them self, whether this is what to expect from the Titans the rest of the season? Yes and No.



There are several bright spots for Tennessee, that will hopefully shine through in the future. One, Steve McNair is injured and Neil O'Donnell may see increased playing time. A good quarterback would make Tennessee's entire offense better. There would be a deep passing threat. The deep pass puts pressure on opposing cornerbacks up

front and gives Eddie George more room to run. There also may be some optimism found with the starting receivers. Last year D-Mase broke the record for all purpose yards, and Kevin Dyson, who spent last year injured, is ready to come back big. O'Donnell, who lead the Steelers to the super bowl in the mid-nineties, may be the quarterback who connects with Dyson for big plays. Though with the loss of fullback

Lorenzo Neil, Tennessee's running may never get to the point it was at last year. Titans Coach Jeff Fisher claims that the tight end position will be able to fill the fullback role, but I have my doubts.

The Titans' defense, unlike the offense, has not performed quite so poorly. Their lightning quick defensive end duo of Jevon Kerse and

Kevin Carter have provided constant pressure on opposing quarterbacks. In these two men there is reason for excitement. They are fast and strong, and they are both good enough to require a double team, leaving one of them with a desirable one on one match up. Not only will opposing teams have to deal with the defensive end duo, but also linebacker Randall Godfrey and safety Blaine Bishop, two of the hardest hitters in the game. All in all, though the Titans lost Marcus Robertson and Denard Walker, they should still have strong secondary and good run defense.

Tennessee's defense should be able to hold its own against any offense. However, the question of the season will not be the strength of the defense, but the number of points the offense will be able to put on the scoreboard. If the Titans are able score more than 20 points a game, and the defense does not suffer any injuries, Tennessee should be able to start winning more games. With an extremely competitive AFC Central, every team will lose some games, so the playoff picture won't be clear for some time.



## An Interview with Jamie Ranson

*Slated to be a member of the class of 2002, Jamie Ranson left MBA in tenth grade after three years at the school. He moved to St. Louis and has been attending Principia, a 320-student Christian Scientists school there since his move. Because many of his friends back at MBA have been wondering what he has been doing with himself over the past two years, The Bell Ringer caught up with him to ask him some questions.*

### How's the new school:

I like it a lot; it's going really well. I have gotten a lot of opportunities there that I wouldn't have gotten in terms of musical and that theater things. Musical theater has been a lot of fun for me. I've fallen in love with being on stage.

### Can you still do the chinese man?

I haven't done it in a long time, but I still can, I suppose. I have never really had the occasion to do it... [Jamie does his impression of an angry chinese man]... I'm really out of practice.

### Do you have anything to say to Clay?

I don't know. I'm sorry I got really defensive about things. I'm sorry he got really annoying about things. I would have liked to get along with him better. If we got together now, I think we would be friendly.

### Have you finished the fantasy novel?

Not really. I still read a lot of fantasy and think about it a little. I've sort of branched out into other things, I think.

### What music do you listen to?

I have like four categories in my CD case. Sort of rock and roll, metal and punk, and all that stuff lumped together, with Irish Music, stand up comedy, George Carlin, Broadway and Classical.

### Are you still seeing the girlfriend in Mississippi?

No. That actually ended before I even left. I didn't make a big thing about it because I was doing a lot of stuff for school at the time.

### Any comments on your relationship with Audrey Ball?

You can put down that I am laughing. I've realized that Audrey Ball is not the only girl in the world. I would love to come back and see her again for the heck of it, but she's not the only girl in the world.

### Speaking of coming back, when are you going to come and visit us again?

Actually, I did come back for a little while over last Christmas break, but you guys were in the middle of your pre-Christmas break frenzy. Hopefully, I can come back and visit again sometime and see you guys. Maybe later this year sometime.

### Are you still doing martial arts?

I am keeping up with that. I am a first degree red belt and I am going to test for second degree next month. And by the time this paper comes out, I will have

he has in his speeches—that is all good.

By and large I really don't want us to go to war. If lots of people are dying and it's the only thing to do to prevent disasters, I guess it's the right thing to

probably be a conscientious objector such that I wouldn't carry a weapon and be on the front lines. And if it came down to that my country needed me, I would do something.

### If you contracted anthrax could you take medicine?

If you ask a stupid question, I am going to give a stupid answer... Let me stop laughing first... Probably not. It's not likely to happen to me.

### Are you a Republican or a Democrat?

I'm independent and proud of it. My view on politics is that aside from religion I can find no bigger reason for people to disagree and hate each other than politics. Because of that, I don't like the political process very much. By and large I focus on the people rather than the issues. How they think as opposed to what they think.

### Anything to say to the MBA community?

I hope everything's going well. Hopefully, I will get to come see you again. Good luck with all your lives... have fun, don't work too hard.



Jamie Ranson in an Archives staff picture from his Sopjmore year

been in two tournaments. In the last one I got first place in form, and second place in board breaking. It was against other people in my school.

### How did you break the boards?

I used my feet. I can break three boards with my feet and one with my hand. To test for black, I have to break a brick, but I am not sure how many boards that is equivalent to.

### Do you know Andrew Kaiser? No, the name doesn't ring a bell.

So, you've never heard of him and you're not related to him?

No, I don't think so.

### What do you think of tapeings and flesh-piles?

I think they're OK, as long as they don't go too far, they should be fine. As long as people aren't getting hurt every day, and everybody, including the victim, knows that it's all in fun and not a personal attack on someone, yeah it's fine. If people are getting hurt, and feelings are getting hurt than it's too far. I'm glad it never happened to me, but that's beside the point.

### Which teachers did you particularly like at MBA?

I enjoyed working with Dr. Castle, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Chenery, Mr. Moxley, Dr. Fuller, I am trying to remember who all my teachers are - this is pathetic-Mr Jones, Dr. Griffith, Mr Weaver was the man. And Mr Tillman - That's the only MBA guy I got to see when I visited.

What do you think of Bush's handling of the situation in Afghanistan? I think Bush made a really good call in taking time to think about it and not lashing out. Supporting the country's unity as

do.

### Would you fight?

I wouldn't want to, and I would

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## MBA Goes to War

As the nation turns to war, many American militants are calling for a nationwide draft to fill the ranks of our army. Before everyone jumps on board the "Kill them Afghans!" bandwagon, however, let's take a minute to consider what would happen if MBA students were forced to go to war. As an appropriate example, this writer thinks the following might be the future for Mr. Coverstone's 3<sup>rd</sup> period Government AP class:

**Allen Callison:** converts to Islam and suicide bombs an FC & meeting.

**Adam Zellner:** uses religion to flee to Israel, only to return after 3 weeks, having found out that on Saturdays the only form of transportation is walking.

**Aaron Waldo:** gets lost in Afghanistan desert resulting in the largest "WHERE'S WALDO?" game ever.

**Steven Syverude:** Avoids the draft for the entire length of the war because he still looks like he's 12.

**Janice Sperring:** dies valiantly overseas; largest attendance ever at a funeral, which has nothing to do with his room and sister.

**Michael Pass:** becomes war hero in Afghanistan, then elected first Jewish President—who didn't see this one coming?

**Heath Edwards:** assassinates the first Jewish president; now who didn't see this one coming?

**Jack Turner:** drafted as head of security for an American army base in Afghanistan. After first Afghan fighter tries to spy on base with a mask and camera, the rest decide it isn't worth it to get the crap beaten out of them for their cause.

**Brian Chandler:** becomes Popeye, but using a different green plant.

**Will Howarth:** moves to Afghanistan where there is no law for statutory rape.

**Philip Dempsey:** hired as motivational speaker for the US army. Moves to a van by a river in Afghanistan.

**Ryan Miriam:** key figure in Operation Scholz; while toweling off his hair, he is assassinated in an awful mistake.

**Evan Hagemeier:** comes out of seclusion to begin the "Remember the Scholz" peace movement; causes the war to end.

**Mr. Coverstone:** heads cryptography department, but is fired when they find out that he's only talking fast.

OFF TO WAR!!!

## A New War, A New Generation

by Michael Pass (Editor-in-Chief)

On September 11, 2001, a date that will live in infamy—the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked. But we all know that. We've all heard that Middle Eastern Islamic extremists were behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We've all heard what the

rebel in the streets and march in protest. I do suggest, however, that we all pay close attention to the path our country is headed down. I suggest that we closely scrutinize and examine every important decision that is made. Remember that each major decision has profound and often unseen

usher in a new era of American politics by fundamentally changing the public's perception of the purpose and role of the Federal Government?

The answer to those questions is simply "no one". No one can ever be sure how tragic events of extreme political importance will change the future of a country. The most important thing we can do, however, is probe every decision that is made and weigh its long-term consequences. We can educate ourselves about public policy and about geo-politics. We must obtain a high level of understanding of the new, global world that we are living in, so that we might be better prepared to inherit a new and different America. Make no mistake about it: the events of September 11, 2001, mark the beginning of a new era of American life, and it is our generation that will be its inheritors.

### Remember that each major decision has profound and often unseen consequences for future generations

strategy for defeating terrorism will be. A long and rigorous campaign using all of our economic, military, intelligence, and diplomatic resources to ensure victory over terror. But what does all this mean for us, for our generation, for students at Montgomery Bell Academy, and for students around the country?

Do not idly observe the policy that America's politicians implement to fight this war over the next few years. Pay attention to the legislation passed by Congress, the powers granted to the President, and the changes that take place throughout our society. Observe how the public reacts to the trading of their Civil Liberties for a stronger sense of security. Do not take these developments for granted, because the alterations made in the relationships between the states and the National Government, between the different branches of the Federal Government, and between the people and government will shape a new age in American civilization.

It is true that during this "war on terrorism", our generation will not be making any of the crucial political decisions, although it is very possible that we will provide the soldiers needed to carry out the policies of our elders. It is of tremendous import, however, that we do not blindly follow the dictates of older generations. It is we who will inherit the consequences of the decisions made today. The outcomes of this war and of the reshaping of global politics will only fully be realized when older generations are no longer setting policy, and when our generation begins raising families and running America.

No, I am not suggesting that the Federal Government's policies are wrong. I am not suggesting that the young people of this country should

consequences for future generations. Who could have known that developing an atomic bomb to end World War II would effectively shape a Cold War that lasted nearly half a century? Who could have known that the stock market crash of 1929 would

## A Farewell to Senator Jesse Helms

(1996)

A few weeks ago one of the greatest figures in American politics, the honorable, southern gentleman Senator Jesse Helms, announced his retirement from government. As a Republican from North Carolina, Sen. Helms has been a fixture in national government for decades. Throughout his years in the Senate, Helms, one of the greatest leaders in American history, has been focused on the future of our great nation. As a tribute to this genius of a man, here are some of Senator Helms' greatest insights into the nature of our society:



"If God wanted us to use the metric system, then Jesus would have had 10 disciples."

"Your tax dollars are being used to pay for grade-school classes that teach our children that cannibalism, wife-swapping, and murder of infants and the elderly are acceptable behavior."

"Mr. Clinton better watch out if he comes down here (North Carolina). He'd better have a bodyguard."

"It's their deliberate, disgusting, revolting conduct that is responsible for the disease." (Explaining his refusal to give financial support to families of AIDS victims)

"If God wanted us to use the metric system then Jesus would have had 10 disciples."

"Watch this, I'm gonna make her cry. I'm gonna whistle Dixie until she cries." (referring to African-American politician Carol Mosley-Braun)

So thank you Senator Helms for your years of open-mindedness in leading our country into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## Political Look Alikes



Republican House Speaker Dennis Hastert (left) and Commander Carr. One is a conservative who wants a larger army, the other is...



Dr. Clements (left) and California Representative Nancy Pelosi. The only way we can tell the difference between these two is that one occasionally wears long sleeves.



CNN Senior Political Analyst Bill Schneider (left) and Dr. Crowell—one of these men has gained power and prestige as his career has continued, the other, through his hard work, has cultivated an unmatched reputation in the field of nuclear physics and gained the utmost respect of his colleagues and students.



Vladimir Lenin (left) and Mr. Lester. A man can smile and smile, but still be a commie.

## By the Numbers

**4543**

Length in words, including signatures, of the U.S. Constitution

**9773**

Length in words of the 2001 MBA Constitution, or the section of the handbook devoted to rules and regulations

Sources: National Archives and Records Administration and a member of the Bell Ringer staff with a lot of free time

**\$11,200**

MBA tuition for the 2000-2001 school year

**4,480**

Number of American flags you can buy at Walgreens for \$11,200

Sources: [www.montgomerybell.com](http://www.montgomerybell.com) and the Walgreens at 4243 Harding Road

## Government Cracks Down on Free Speech and Other Criminal Activities

by Adam Zelizer-(Political Editor)

As America rushes to make sure that another terrorist attack like the one experienced on September 11<sup>th</sup> will never occur again, our government appears ready to sacrifice all of our civil liberties in the name of law enforcement.

It seemed as if our government was content to focus on the external nature of terrorism, the fact that it is often funded, planned, and launched from overseas. Osama bin Laden makes his money in the Arab world through various large, successful businesses; terrorists in Germany orchestrated the attack; and some of the terrorists moved into the United States with illegal passports and false identification. Our government froze bin Laden's assets international banks and beefed up security at our borders, preparing to fight the battle abroad. Then the military started bombing Afghanistan, as if we were going to blame Afghanistan for

the so-called "Attack on America." At that point it was apparent that the government was going to focus on prevention by becoming more active abroad, not more defensive at home.

However the entire approach changed on October 26<sup>th</sup>, when the President signed the USA PATRIOT act into law. Designed to restrict the movement of the terrorists, the act cracks down on the liberties all Americans are granted by the Constitution to be free from government tyranny. John Nichols says: "Rare are the moments in American history when a Congress has surrendered so many cherished freedoms in a single trip to the altar of immediate fear."

Even though Nichols may be overstating the situation, his thoughts contain some truth in that our government is taking drastic action at the expense of our liberty. Passed

without much media notice, the USA PATRIOT act operates on many fronts, some more relevant than others to students at MBA. For example, the law allows our government to incarcerate or exile any non-citizen suspected of terrorist activities or of pro-terrorist speech, even if it is covered by the First Amendment. Further, it grants the FBI and other law enforcement broad powers previously unimaginable: the ability to monitor internet and telephone conversations, search properties without notice, and explore private financial or medical records, all without any probable cause or evidence of wrong-doing by the suspect.

In effect this law creates a "Big Brother" type intelligence community far more powerful than any ever imagined. In addition, the law permits the government to bypass freedom of speech and assembly by including the power to disperse any political

organization, even if there is no concrete evidence whatsoever of terrorist activities. Thus anyone with socialist opinions, libertarian ideals, or any thoughts that differ with the government's could be investigated by the FBI, outlawed from involvement in political activity, or incarcerated by the Attorney General.

This law follows in a long line of liberty-restricting laws in American history, from the Alien and Sedition Acts to the internments of foreigners during World War II, but goes much further in scope. Because it passed with such ease and is so important to the attempts by the Bush administration to increase law enforcement, this law's impact on civil liberty could last for much longer. We can only hope that the dire consequences that could result from this act never materialize.



# 12 Point-Counterpoint

## Seinfeld Club

### Stupid Seinfeld Club Has No Point

The Seinfeld Club is a complete waste of time.

First of all, look at the people who go to its meetings. Do they seem like well rounded, worthwhile men who are concerned with bettering themselves? Of course, not. That's just the tip of the iceberg as to why the Seinfeld Club should not exist.

What part of the Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete ideal are these people trying to fulfill?

The show itself has no point. And what's the point of studying something that has no point?

I journeyed down to the Anne Potter Wilson room during activity period to try to find an answer to this question. There, I found a herd of underclassmen packed wall to wall in the dark, totally absorbed by the blinking screen. There weren't any seats left by the time I arrived. I looked around for the teacher or authority figure that usually presides over activity period meetings but could find none.

Imagine reclining comfortably on your La-Z-Boy watching reruns - except with 30 or so giggling freshman. That's how much fun the Seinfeld Club is.

I have no issues with the Seinfeld Club as a show. But I could tell that these masters of intellect with whom I was sitting clearly did not comprehend the meaning of *Seinfeld*.

The art of Cosmo Kramer was

easy enough for even them to see, but the genius of George Costanza seemed beyond their grasp. They laughed at the slapstick physical comedy of Kramer but missed the not so subtle insecurities of George.

I guess not everyone is born with the ability to interpret such complicated works of art. But is the Seinfeld Club making any effort to educate the ignorant? Not that I saw.



Yolanda and the Soup Nazi. Just one real life parallel that goes unnoticed by the Seinfeld Club



Although *Seinfeld* may not have a point, it speaks to everyone in his of her daily life. The Seinfeld Club should illustrate for its members the parallels between the show and real life. The Soup Nazi is not just a character; he is Yolanda incarnate on a TV screen. Elaine's attempts to endure Peterman's rambling stories should serve as an example to every MBA student trying to stay awake during an

assembly anecdote.

Disgusted that the Seinfeld Club failed in this and so many other respects, I left Activity Period for my third period class. I decided that my first visit to the Seinfeld Club will be my last.

From now on *Seinfeld* will stay between me and my living room television.

### Seinfeld Club Isn't Supposed to Have A Point, Stupid

by Ted Tywang (Staff)

Since the beginning of my MBA career, I have noticed how unbelievably condescending the upperclassmen are to the rest of the student body. (I realize that not all upperclassmen or even the majority of them are this way. However, I will generalize in this response, just as those who have taken issue with Seinfeld Club have.)

I find it ridiculous that upperclassmen will go out of their way to attack and try to end the activities of underclassmen which do not affect them in any way. As I tell my conservative right-wing brethren who want to purge television of all that is not Brady, "Just change the channel," so I say to those upperclassmen who criticize Seinfeld Club, "Just don't come."

However, that simple phrase is not enough to keep the eager beasts attacking Seinfeld Club. It seems that the detractors of The Club don't really mind the fact that there is a Seinfeld Club, instead their problem is with the people in it. (A perfect illustration of the rampant condescension among the upperclassmen of MBA. Their logic is, it is all right if there is a Seinfeld Club, just as long as only upperclassmen attend.) It is true that the club is filled with "a herd of underclassmen." However, is there really anything wrong with that? One great thing about the Seinfeld Club activity period is that for 30 measly minutes, it offers students a chance to escape from the grueling MBA day of tests, deadlines, and frantic studying.

The upperclassmen claim that the people of Seinfeld Club, primarily underclassmen, cannot "comprehend the meaning of Seinfeld." First of all, the brilliant seniors who wrote the anti-Seinfeld club article contradict themselves in that statement. They begin by arguing that the Seinfeld Club is stupid because the show has no point. They later argue that we cannot comprehend the meaning of Seinfeld. Might want to rethink your argument, boys. Beyond that gross contradiction, allow me to address the latter argument.

How do you upperclassmen know that we don't get the meaning of

the show? Oh, yeah, I forgot, you guys are all knowing. Plus, we don't laugh at the George jokes, only the stupid Kramer ones. I, for one, find the George jokes the funniest on the show, as do many of my classmates. However, even if the "giggling freshman" only laugh at the Kramer jokes, so what? The club isn't a George Club or a Kramer Club, it is the Seinfeld Club, so those who come can enjoy whatever aspect of the show they like best.

It seems that, although the seniors' age has given them immeasurable wisdom allowing them to comprehend the true meaning of Seinfeld, they are also unfortunately experiencing a loss of sight with their old age. They claim that when they came to Seinfeld Club, they failed to find an authority figure anywhere. That is simply incorrect. The dedicated Mr. Damon Regen has been at every meeting thus far, providing great leadership and direction for the club. The sole virtue of the anti-Seinfeld Club article is the parallels it draws between the characters on Seinfeld and various members of the MBA community. I myself have often wondered if MBA were *Seinfeld*, which MBA characters would fill the various roles. Maybe a certain intimidating junior school administrator would be Frank Costanza, with a certain junior school grammar teacher and excessive demerit giver as Estelle. There is also a certain very disgruntled high-school math teacher who could be the frustrated George Costanza. Wow, this is fun. I think that might be a topic for discussion in future meetings of Seinfeld Club.

However, before everyone can be a part of the discussion, they need to get to know the characters, which is why we have shown, and will continue to show, whole episodes of the brilliant show in our meetings. I encourage everyone to come to Seinfeld Club meetings; it's a great MBA experience. I reiterate, however, that if you do not appreciate the club, rather than complain about it, why don't you simply stay away! Trust me, you will not be missed. And besides, it's not 30 underclassmen; it's more like 50.



## Behind the Music: *Annie Get Your Gun*

by Chris Schuller (Staff)

The concepts of singing and dancing have always frightened me on some level. Though I have always been amazed, impressed, and entertained by singers and dancers, never in my wildest dreams, one year ago, would I have imagined myself in their place. Yikes, do things ever change.

After a year of doing MBA plays, during which I could not have had more fun if I had tried, I chose to audition for the fourth MBA-Harpeth Hall collaborative musical, *Annie Get Your Gun*. Not only was I going to sing and dance at the same time, I was going to do it in front of girls.

We began rehearsal on August 6, 2001. Long before many of our peers had even begun to think about school, the cast was dragging themselves out of bed to show up at 9 o'clock sharp every morning on the campus of our sister school.

The process of rehearsal for a musical is rather trichotomous in its

early stages. Some of us would be on the stage, learning to dance (a monumental challenge for a good many of us males), while others were below in the chorus room singing (or attempting to, anyway), and still others worked on the non-musical elements of the show in a dance studio tucked deep in the bowels of the Harpeth Hall athletics/fine arts facility.

Over the course of the next six weeks, the elements of the show began to congeal slowly. Cast members arrived from out of town and completed the ensemble, the rehearsals were concentrated entirely in the theater, and costume pieces and props began to appear in the hands of the actors. An orchestra materialized, and the rough-sounding cassette tapes vanished, actors and dancers began to trip over each other less and less, and we, the actors, dancers, and singers changed from the Okay Chorale to a finely-tuned musical machine.

At last, at the beginning of

tech week (that's the week of rehearsals just before the show opens, for the benefit of you non-theater types), with lights, props, set, cast, and crew all in place, we were ready to tackle the last six days and open with a bang. Unfortunately, a third of the costumes were still in Canada, trapped there by the closing of the U.S. border on September 11.

However, in the true spirit of Irving Berlin, we chose to "go on with the show" and dive in to our last, most difficult task with every bit of the necessary energy. Tech week went uncharacteristically smoothly, with director Janette Klocko saying she has "never had a show come together so well." By Wednesday night, cast, crew, and adults were ready to go.

Thursday came and went, and by Friday afternoon the whole company was ready to open with a bang.

Are you familiar with that song about how there's "No Business Like Show Business"? What about the

Nike commercial featuring Michael Jordan and Mia Hamm where they sing "Anything you can do, I can do better..."? Both of those songs were performed in the play, plus a ton numbers hilarious numbers. The show played to packed houses through both of the weekends it ran. Make no mistake: this musical was worth the time and money everyone spent on it.

*Annie Get Your Gun* starred Audrey Ball as Annie Oakley, Hunter Mobley as Frank Butler, Jessica Turk as Frank's looooooovey assistant, Ms. Dolly Tate, Ben Pote as Charlie Davenport, Tommy McGinn as Buffalo Bill, Gregory McCord as Chief Sitting Bull, EA Manier as Davenport's assistant, Mac, Richard Howell and Liz Warner as knife-throwing love birds, plus Albert Marks, Richard Lodge, Charlie Pate, Dan Gift, Scottie Gambill, Wesley Hughes, Josh Mahew, Derek Pendergrass, Annie Mulgrew, Katy Bowers, and Rob Beasley in a host of other speaking roles.

## Ghost World: Good Low Budget Flick

by Will Choppin (Entertainment Editor)

This past summer, you could have seen *American Pie 2*, *The Mummy Returns*, *Rush Hour 2*, *Jurassic Park III*, *Scary Movie 2*, *Jay and Silent Bob Movie 5*, *Vince Vaughn/Jon Favreau Movie 2*, or *Planet of the Apes Movie 2*. Do you see a common trend here? All these movies are sequels or quasi-sequels! Where in the world has all the originality gone?

I'll tell you where. All the good original movie ideas have left Hollywood and been made independently, where the budgets are lower, yet the quality is higher. So which movie is the one that is neither a sequel nor a big budget epic, but just a quality original flick? That would be *Ghost World*. Allow me to explain.

*Ghost World* is an unknown masterpiece with characters abusively honest, humor hilariously cynical, and situations highly original. The story deals with Enid, played by Thora Birch, who has just graduated from high school. Enid is incredibly cynical and jaded. She has a highly negative attitude toward her surrounding world and at many times is just fed up with it, but she has no plan of changing it. She and her best friend Rebecca both

delight in taking stabs at the world and at other people. On a chance encounter (a prank call), they meet Seymour,

cannot live with one another: Maturity kicks into Rebecca and she can no longer stand Enid, nor has she ever been

with life.

Enid learns by the end of the story that it was she who drove everybody away from her. All her life she has felt that she has been above everyone else, but her cynicism becomes so much that she is brought back down to everyone else's level in society. But Enid has no place in society: she has no reason to criticize it and no tolerance to live in it. In the end, she must do something once and for all: she must either change herself or her surroundings.

I can bet that as you are reading this article, you have never seen a preview, a poster, or so much as a still shot of this movie. So was it a mistake on my part to choose such an unpopular movie to review this time? No, because I think it is the one of the best movies in theaters right now. Go see *Ghost World* and prove me wrong. I'd love to hear what you have to say.

(Note: I very much enjoyed *American Pie 2*, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, *Made*, and *Planet of the Apes*. But Holy Crap were there a lot of sequels this summer!)



played by Steve Buscemi. Seymour is a musically obsessed middle-aged recluse whom Enid befriends. Enid, Rebecca, and Seymour suddenly become a complex friendship triangle whose sides

able to stand Seymour's strange ways; Enid remains horribly cynical and ultimately is driven away from Seymour, Rebecca, and her whole world; Seymour accepts everything and just drifts on



# Matt Hill 1983-2001

## PRIDE

by Matt Hill (written in 11th grade)

Stars and Bars  
Big Beggars  
Rock Crawlers

Born in the south  
Raised pure southern  
My pride no doubt

My truck is my baby  
Solid, strong, dependable  
She brings me home safely

In the mud we play  
Often getting stuck  
But not bad enough to be -----

When November arrives  
To Arkansas I head  
Many ducks soon to be dead

Jimmy Sanders is himself  
His eyes engulfed in the tv show  
His face giving off a very happy glow

Steve Spurrier I hate  
His gators deserve no bliss  
My --- he can kiss

In the summer fun comes  
As we head off to the boat  
No clothes we will wear  
Not even a coat

Lynard Skynard, Charlie Daniels  
Our inspirations all year  
The south has no fear

## A Friendship Lost

by Heath Edwards

I have known Matt Hill ever since third grade. We went to Oak Hill together and then to MBA to start seventh grade. I grew up with Matt, and he was a good friend of mine. Early on in high school, I hung out with him every weekend and I have many great memories of those times. About half way through our junior year, however, we started to grow apart. He got a girlfriend and I started hanging out with some of my other friends a lot more. Although Matt and I were still friends, a great deal of what we had with each other was lost as we started going our separate ways. My conversation with Matt on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, would be the last time I would ever speak to him again.

When Mrs. Oldacre told me that Matt had been in a bad car accident and had been killed, I couldn't believe it. It seemed impossible to me that someone who had been an important

by James Pace

As I sat and read an email sent from Matt in late summer, I realized how much Matt was enjoying life. The email posted a picture from Florida of Bubby Crowe, Adam Lipshie, and Matt standing with several huge fish hanging from their hands. Noted below the picture, Matt had written: P.S. James I sure hope you're enjoying the cold and rainy weather, because I've been sitting in the sun having a blast. Ironically, just a few months later as the weather turns cold and rainy, Matt is once again away from us on a vacation with no return. Somehow, somewhere, Matt is soaking up light, doing much more than can be imagined on earth.

The night of September 21<sup>st</sup> will forever stick in my mind as the first truly terrible day in my life. That Friday afternoon as I left school, I drove down Brighton only to find out that Matt was still at school further down in the Senior lot. I had this feeling to turn around, so I parked on the street and walked over to his car. After asking what time he and his girlfriend were getting to the game and reminiscing on the fun we had the night before studying for a Biology test at the dentist's office, I said goodbye for the last time.

Later that evening, Warner, Jess, and I were playfully walking around in my backyard trying to shoot doves with BB guns when the phone rang. It was about an hour and a half before a Friday night football game when our plans came to a halt. Matt had been in an accident. A few minutes later we found out that he had been killed. The three of us began to grieve part of my life for the past ten years could suddenly be gone. I refused to believe that Matt was dead, I even thought about calling his cell phone to talk to him, and I rushed to the hospital to see if he was still alive. When I arrived, a wall of denial that I had built up was destroyed. As I stood there looking at him, lifeless on the medical table, I felt an indescribable pain in my heart. I had lost a friend.

One thing that I hope everyone can take away from this is how

and throw up due to our feelings of disbelief.

It would only be an hour later before some of Matt's best friends and I would walk behind Matt's screaming parents into a locked down room holding Matt's body. The nightmare of all nightmares had come true as I stared at the halted life support tubes hanging out of my best friend's mouth.

Saying goodbye forever is videotaped in my mind and has later on become a huge relief in the huge task of trying to grasp this situation. Previously I had never dealt with death, and only just now am I gaining a profound appreciation for the feelings

people release at such times.

Certainly as life without Matt goes on, many things will continue to change, but so many memories and feelings will stay the same.

In the weeks after the accident as I go to Matt's house, I find so many things just as they were. His car is parked in the garage with his cell phone in the

front seat, love letters packed away in the glove compartment, his half-eaten lunch still sitting in the backseat with his backpack and change of clothes. Lying on the floor are car magazines, Spaghetti Supper tickets, and Coke cans—all things we take for granted. Certainly these objects symbolize the preciousness of time and life.

As the days go on, I will miss the Christmas morning phone calls, trips to the duck club, firework wars, and time spent playing pranks on our friends. The times we had together burning "GO VOLS" into my backyard grass, playing

important your friends and family are to your life. Don't be afraid to hug your friends or say that you care about them, because you may never get to see them again. Don't let an old friend just walk out of your life, renew that friendship and cherish it. Tell your parents you love them; Matt's parents will never hear him say "I love you" again and they would give anything just to have him back.

I let Matt grow apart from me and I never got to tell him goodbye,

Mario Kart as little kids, or riding the four-wheeler will be cherished deep in my heart. Matt was always that little kid you loved to play with but amazingly a minute later could turn to as if he were a mentor who would take control of bad situations, changing them into good.

In a book a friend of my mom has been reading, dealing with the loss of loved ones was touched on in the lesson that fell on the day of Matt's services at church. The lesson touches us wherever we are. Be it at school, church, hospital, or cemetery, we don't like to say goodbye to those we love. It is right for us to weep but there is no reason for us to despair. Matt had pain here. He no longer has pain. Matt struggled here. He no longer has struggles. Matt knows why he was taken and is in the presence of the God he believed in. While it may be cold here on earth, comfort can be taken in knowing Matt is surrounded by warmth.

In *The Tennessean* on October 2, Rich Tumble quoted from a sermon in a book titled *This Rock*:

"My friends and loved ones, the fact is the dead never leave us. They are always in our hearts and in our minds. And at the most unexpected times and places, as we open a door, or listen to rain at night, they are with us. The loved dead are with us at our moments of greatest happiness, and they are with us in our days of greatest sorrow."

As we make new friends, grow up, go to college, get married, and hopefully live long, full lives, never forget the legacy of the seventeen-year-old friend we once had. When thinking of the future, I am filled with joyful thoughts of Matt waiting to see me again when I pass away. He will not have experienced so much of what we have to look forward to, but we as friends and as a community were so much a part of the treasured life Matt had on earth. Whether up or down, take comfort in knowing that we are fortunate enough to have a terrific friend and jolly, smiling young man who is watching over us as we move in different directions.

which is something I will always regret.

Finally, don't worry about crying for the people you love. You may think you aren't a man if you cry, but you are actually more of a man if you can cry for a friend or family member who is suffering.

God bless you, Matt. You were a blessing to everyone that knew you for those seventeen short years. I know you are in heaven and I hope to see you again one day, give you a big hug and tell you I love you.

